

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

H. RES. 1161, RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH TO THE MEMBER ELECT FROM THE 13TH DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

HON. PAUL D. RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on November 29, 2018, the House by unanimous consent adopted House Resolution 1161 in advance of the administration of the oath of office to Representative BRENDA JONES of Michigan. Representative JONES was elected on November 6, 2018 to fill a vacancy in the 13th Congressional District of Michigan for the remainder of the 115th Congress. Her certificate of election was received by the House on November 29, 2018. Representative JONES also currently serves as the President of the Detroit City Council. Representative JONES has indicated that she will abide by guidance from the House Committee on Ethics to minimize the conflicts that may exist with her duties as President of the City Council during this short tenure in the House.

The Speaker, with the concurrence of the Democratic Leader, finds that this resolution (1) represents a narrow exception to the restriction established by the House on January 20, 1909, that the duties of a Member of the House and the Governor of a State are "absolutely inconsistent" and may not be "simultaneously discharged" by the same Member and (2) does not address the Constitutional qualifications of a Member.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on Friday, November 30, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote 425.

HONORING BIG SUR FIRE CHIEF
MARTHA KARSTENS

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extensive contributions made by Big Sur Fire Chief Martha Karstens to the well-being and prosperity of our community on the central coast of California. Chief Karstens has been an invaluable asset to the Big Sur community, a rural area of my District adjacent to historic Highway 1 on the California coast.

I know that every Big Sur resident can attest to Chief Karstens's character, integrity, and devotion to protecting and serving her community.

Residents of Big Sur have historically experienced a lack of access to basic services due to the community's rural location. Chief Karstens sought to fix this, and in 1976, enrolled in the first Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class ever offered in Big Sur, eventually becoming involved with the American Red Cross' Central Coast Chapter as a volunteer ambulance emergency responder. In 1979, Chief Karstens became president of the Red Cross Big Sur Ambulance, the only emergency first response service stationed in Big Sur at the time. Chief Karstens also served on the Board of the Red Cross, Carmel Chapter, as a representative of the Big Sur community. Chief Karstens continued as the Big Sur Ambulance President until 1991, when Monterey County funded a full-time, paid ambulance crew for the Big Sur community.

Following fourteen years of service with the Big Sur Ambulance, Chief Karstens joined the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade, where she has served for the last twenty-eight years. She was named the Brigade's first Medical Battalion Chief in 1991 and was instrumental in developing the Brigade's medical first responder and EMT mission. In 1994, Chief Karstens transitioned into an administrative role for the Brigade and was asked to become a Duty Officer, requiring her to respond to and direct responses for a wide range of incidents. Following further trainings and certifications in fire safety and emergency response, Chief Karstens was voted in as the Administrative Assistant Chief of the Brigade and recognized as Volunteer Firefighter of the Year in 2003. In 2009, Chief Karstens became the Chief of the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade. During her tenure as Chief, she has overseen the organization throughout several devastating fires on the Central Coast. These included the Pfeiffer Fire in 2013, where, despite losing her own home, Chief Karstens continued serving as Incident Commander. She also played a crucial operational role during the Soberanes Fire and the coordinated response to the subsequent storms that collapsed the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge and stranded hundreds of Big Sur residents. Chief Karstens helped to ensure these residents had access to food, medicine, and other essential supplies until the bridge could be restored several months later.

Chief Karstens' dedication to her community is evident in her work to protect and serve her fellow Big Sur community members over the last forty-two years. Throughout this time, she has responded personally to thousands of calls and committed thousands of hours of her personal time to volunteer in Big Sur. Chief Karstens has proven herself as a dedicated first responder and has served her community with steadfast commitment at great personal sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Big Sur Fire Chief Martha Karstens on her distinguished service and in wishing her a long and healthy retirement.

MICHEL DOHERTY

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Michel Doherty a Happy 94th Birthday and to honor her for a lifetime of community service.

Mrs. Doherty is well-known in our community for her extensive service through the countless organizations she participates in. The two projects that bring her the most pride have been the development of Four Mile Cove Ecological Preserve and the opening of the Veterans Administration Clinic in Cape Coral, but these are only a few examples of all the contributions she has made to the Cape Coral community.

Mrs. Doherty also participates as a member of the Cape Coral Civic Association, Fort Myers Women's Community Club, Tiger Bay Club of SWFL, chair of the American Red Cross "Simply Red Gala," Voices for Kids, Lee County Homeless Coalition, Giving Heart for Cancer, Abuse Center for Women, Downtown River District Art Walks, Boys and Girls Club of SWFL, Hope Hospice Planning Committee and Pace Center for Girls. There is no doubt that her work will positively impact our community for generations to come.

I thank Michel for her service to the Cape Coral community and wish her a Happy Birthday.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF VIRGINIA COMBS

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Virginia Combs, who is retiring as Deputy Director of the Kentucky Consular Center (KCC) in Williamsburg, Kentucky after 16 years of service.

Virginia has been a vital asset to the Department of State and the Kentucky Consular Center since taking on the role as Deputy Director in 2002, just two years after the center opened. When Virginia arrived, the facility had roughly 40 employees. Under her leadership and direction, more than 300 people now work at KCC, providing critical services for the State Department to process immigrant visa applications. The State Department's decision to locate in Williamsburg inspired leaders across Southern and Eastern Kentucky to dream bigger for high tech jobs and ramp up new industry recruitment. Year after year, Virginia has helped prove that we have the best workforce in the country and we can successfully meet federal government contract needs in our region.

Prior to KCC, Virginia played a monumental role in economic development projects in the

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